

WEST LAFAYETTE TRAFFIC COMMISSION
WEST LAFAYETTE CITY BUILDING
WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA

TIME: 5:00 pm, Tuesday, July 16, 2013

PLACE: Council Chambers

PRESENT:	Dave Buck	Vicki Burch	David Downey
	Chris Leroux	Carrie Ehresman	Jim Knapp
	Karen O'Farrell	Larry Wood	Kathleen Mills
	Larry Preo	Boudewijn van Gelder	

VISITORS:	Ben Anderson	Kristi Smith	Michael Susong
	Cameron Seymour	Tim Balensiefer	Stephen Bus

Professor van Gelder brought the meeting to order and determined there was a quorum.

Mr. Preo a motion to approve the minutes from the May 21, 2013 meeting. Ms. Burch seconded the motion. Professor van Gelder requested the minutes to reflect that the word motorist should be changed to cyclist in the public comments made by Aaron Madrid at the last meeting. With that clarification, the minutes were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Burch stated that the bicycle ordinance was heard recently at the Lafayette City Council meeting and it passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Update on Current Projects:

Northwestern Avenue: Mr. Buck stated that Milestone Contractors has made good progress on the road construction between Yeager Road and Lindberg Road. They have hit the intermediate completion dates in their contract to get out of INDOT's way by July 8th. INDOT can now begin their resurfacing work in that same segment of road. To date, they have not made it that far.

INDOT is still milling and resurfacing the area of Northwestern Avenue farther south, from Cherry Lane down to Grant Street. INDOT will be increasing their scope of resurfacing work from Cherry Lane north all the way to Yeager Road. They will now be milling down four inches instead of the proposed inch and a half because the intermediate layer is in pretty bad shape. They will then put four inches back in. While INDOT is continuing their road work, Milestone is going ahead and progressing with additional sidewalk work and trail construction on the outside of the curbs, as well as backfilling, topsoil, sod and mulching before INDOT gets to our area north of Lindberg Road.

According to Ben Anderson, several utility companies are working in the area as well.

INDOT is also currently working on resealing all of the joints along the road between Robinson Street and the new US 231. This work should last another two weeks.

Metronet is working all over the city installing fiber optic cabling. Because of Metronet's fiber optic cable installation, this has triggered Duke to replace a lot of their utility poles that have become worn or rotten over time. To date, Duke has replaced about 200 utility poles in the city.

Vectren is continuing with main replacements in the area also.

The City is doing some curb work on Russell Street and island work along First, Second and Waldron Streets. The City will also be resurfacing Grant Street from Northwestern Avenue to Meridian Street, replacing curbs on Andrew Place, and doing sidewalk work on North Street. Sylvia and Hayes streets will be repaved this year, as well as curb replacement on Navajo in front of City Hall, and concrete patching on Kalberer, Kent and in Blackbird Farms.

Mr. Buck wanted to emphasize the island work on First and Second Street has been long overdue and has been requested by various student groups and Purdue representatives for a long time. Also, on North Street, along the north side of the Grant Street parking garage by the University Church, there was a large area of ash trees that had been asphalted over the years. These trees have now been removed and the City will replace it with a new streetscape.

Ms. Burch asked if the tree removal on Happy Hollow Road near Knob Hill Apartments was done by Metronet. Mr. Anderson said it was work being done by Duke.

Carrollton Street Speed Counts: A resident had requested a speed study on Carrollton Street between Salisbury Street and Northwestern Avenue. Mr. Buck stated we should have those results soon and will be able to share the information at next month's Traffic Commission meeting.

Dodge Street Loading Dock at 720 Northwestern: Stephen Bus with Campus Acquisitions and Tim Balensiefer with T-Bird Design Services were present to talk about the loading dock at 720 Northwestern. Mr. Bus requested elimination of two parking spaces on Dodge Street so that delivery trucks can back into the loading dock and then be able to pull out without hitting the vehicles parked in front of the loading dock. Currently, the design allows for a WB50 vehicle, but the developers are requesting that be changed to a WB67 vehicle. After much discussion, the commission came up with two options as follows:

1. Option A: Allowing a WB67 loading dock and removing two spaces on the east end of Dodge Street and requiring all WB67 delivery trucks to exit east bound headed toward Grant Street; or

2. Option B: Study a redesign of the entire block and remove all parking spaces on the north end of Dodge Street and requiring no delivery trucks be able to exit the loading dock going east on Dodge Street toward Grant Street. The City would also require posted signs by the developer. This would require a redesign of the street so that the accommodation to make the in and out of truck traffic from the west into the loading dock and potentially having a wider sidewalk along the north face of the building and move the angled parking that is there to the north. This would allow for ramps and landscaping areas to be laid out better given there is now more room and to achieve more acceptable grades.

Ms. O'Farrell is concerned if the delivery trucks are exiting to the right and going through the neighborhood, the curbs will be consistently ran over; therefore, causing the curbs to be in need of replacement sooner than expected. Professor van Gelder asked if it would be best to have the trucks exit out left of the loading dock and exit onto Northwestern Avenue. Mr. Buck stated that would require the developers to redesign the area, but it should not need to be rezoned. Professor van Gelder feels it would be best to have the delivery trucks exit left from the loading dock and onto Northwestern Avenue and avoid going through the neighborhoods at all.

Deputy Chief Leroux recommended the Traffic Commission provide the developers a definite answer on option A and then require them to study option B. The commission then agreed that option A could serve as an acceptable solution, but prefer a study of option B and redesign of the street.

Professor van Gelder recommended having another Traffic Commission meeting in August to further discuss the parking issue along Dodge Street. This will also allow enough time for the property owners near the site to be notified of the proposed change. Professor van Gelder made a motion to review option B, and agree that option A would a minimum be acceptable. and have another Traffic Commission meeting on August 20, 2013. Mr. Buck seconded the motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

State Street Task Force: A new task force is being formed to study State Street from River Road to the new US 231 corridor. The City and Purdue have worked together to come up with a State Street master plan effort. The purpose is to study State Street from the river all the way to the new US 231 corridor and develop a long-range "master plan" for the corridor. The City and Purdue have hired MSKS Consultants to conduct the study and it is expected to last six to eight months. Mr. Buck asked if there would be any interest in having someone from the Traffic Commission serve on the task force. Ms. Burch and Ms. Ehresman are both interested.

Pawnee Drive Speed Limits: Mr. Buck wanted to relay a request he received from a resident about lowering the speed limit on Pawnee Drive, or at least posting the speed limit. Currently the speed limit is 30 mph, but with children playing in the area, the resident felt it would be better if the speed limit were lowered to 25 mph and posted. Mr. Buck will provide Ms. O'Farrell with the citizen's contact information since she is the contact person for Wabash Shores. Mr. Buck stated the City could do a traffic study if the commission approves it at a future meeting

Professor van Gelder made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Burch seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

NEXT MEETING: 5:00 pm, Tuesday, August 20, 2013, Council Chambers.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D.M. Buck", written in a cursive style.

David M. Buck, P.E.
Public Works Director

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